

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

FINAL MEETING NOTES

January 17, 2003

9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Chase Palm Park Center • 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd. • Santa Barbara, CA

The following notes summarize the January 17, 2003 meeting of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC). These meeting notes will be posted on the CINMS web site at: www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/sac/sacmin.html. Additionally, audio tape recordings of the SAC meeting are available upon request; contact the SAC Coordinator at 805-884-1464.

Attending:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Member Mark Helvey
Alternate Christina Fahy

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alternate Gary Davis

US COAST GUARD

Alternate Troy Rentz

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Member Drew Mayerson
Alternate Fred Piltz, Ph.D.

US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Member Alex Stone
Alternate Walter Schobel

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Alternate John Ugoretz

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

Alternate Melissa Miller- Henson

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Alternate Gary Timm

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Member Dianne Meester [SAC Chair]
Alternate Jackie Campbell

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

TOURISM

Member Jeanette Webber [SAC Secretary]

RECREATION

Member Jim Brye
Alternate Eric Kett

BUSINESS

Member Michael Hanrahan

CONSERVATION

Member Linda Krop
Alternate Greg Helms

FISHING

Alternate2 Merit McCrea

EDUCATION

Member Craig Taylor
Alternate Kathy deWet-Oleson

RESEARCH

Member Dr. Robert Warner

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Jon Clark [SAC Vice Chair]

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Alternate Avie Guerra

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Alternate Roberta Cordero

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Chris Mobley, Manager

Absent:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

US COAST GUARD

Member J. Wade Russell

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Member Marija Vojkovich

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

Member Brian Baird

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Member Rebecca Roth

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Member Lyn Krieger

Alternate Jack Peveler

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

FISHING

Member Harry Liqournik

Alternate1 Eric Hooper

RESEARCH

Alternate Dr. Dan Brumbaugh

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Alternate Richard Holt

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Robert Duncan

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Dr. Matthew Cahn

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Bill Douros, Sanctuary Superintendent

Alternate: Sean Morton, Management Plan Coordinator

Gulf of the Farallones & Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries

Ed Ueber, Manager

Attendance

At roll call, 17 of the 20 voting seats were represented, with an additional 2 seats represented after late arrivals. There were a total of 27 SAC representatives in attendance for the day (11 members, 15 alternates, 1 non-voting). Public attendance peaked at about 20 individuals.

Administrative Business & Announcements

John Ugoretz introduced himself as the SAC's newly appointed alternate for the CA Department of Fish and Game seat. John briefly described his background with the Department, beginning with his work on the Pacific Herring Research Project in the San Francisco Bay. Following that project John moved to the Department's Long Beach office to become the lead for the Pelagic Shark Tagging program in 1997. Most recently, in 2000, John relocated to the Department's Santa Barbara office where he has worked on abalone and sea urchin projects and the Marine Reserves Working Group (MRWG), and is now the Santa Barbara Supervisor for the Department's Marine Region.

John Ugoretz also provided background information on the newly appointed CA Department of Fish and Game SAC member, Marija Vojkovich. Marija is the Department's Marine Region Offshore Ecosystem Coordinator, as well as Southern California Supervisor. She began her career with the Department as a Port Biologist. Marija is a California native, and was raised on Catalina Island providing her with a unique perspective.

Nancy Berenson provided an update on SAC recruitment. There are presently two open seats: Business Alternate, and Tourism Alternate. Nancy encouraged SAC members to inform interested parties of the vacancies and direct them to the web site (<http://www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>) for applications and more information. The Sanctuary will accept applications through Friday, January 24.

Draft meeting notes from the November 13, 2002 SAC meeting were adopted by the Council.

For the manager's report (which was emailed to SAC members on January 16, and provided at the meeting), Chris Mobley highlighted several important items: Jason XIV, the 2003 Seabird Calendar (with special thanks to Rebecca Young of CINMS), and the CINMS Educational CD-ROM.

Claire Johnson, West Coast Education Liaison of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, presented an introduction to and overview of the Jason XIV program. Bob Ballard founded the Jason Foundation for Education. This includes a National Argonaut Program in which students participate in research conducted in sites from the Galapagos Islands, to the Hawaiian Islands, and this year the Channel Islands National Park and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. This year 25,000 teachers and over 1 million students worldwide will follow Channel Islands research as part of the Jason XIV program. There will be live broadcasts from East Anacapa Island and the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. The National Geographic Channel will be broadcasting live weekdays from January 27th through February 7th at 11:00 am PST. Viewing sites for the live broadcasts include the Cabrillo High School Aquarium, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Carpinteria Middle School, and the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center. Additionally, Claire informed the SAC of the twenty students from Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties selected for the local Jason Argonauts program that is modeled after the National Argonaut program. In conclusion, Claire mentioned several public lectures/lecture series: 1) the Channel Islands National Park/Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Researcher Lecture Series (free to the public), 2) the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum lecture series, 3) Bob Ballard lectures January 31st (Santa Barbara) and Feb. 5th (Ventura). For more information visit the CINMS web site, and click on Jason XIV or contact Claire (claire.johnson@noaa.gov).

Laura Francis, CINMS Santa Barbara Education Coordinator, provided a short demonstration of the new CINMS Educational CD-ROM. This educational item is the product of one and a half years of work and is considered as an "interactive brochure" on CINMS. The Sanctuary will mail the final product to SAC members in several weeks. The CD-ROM includes information on CINMS and why it was designated, as well as information on the National Marine Sanctuary Program. It includes features such as: a public service announcement and other video clips, a calendar of natural events within the Sanctuary, information on Sanctuary programs and the SAC, web links to databases and other sites, information on 100 species of interest (in collaboration with The Ocean Channel), virtual tours, maps, and 3-D panoramic views from each island.

Laura responded to several questions from the SAC stating: the CD does have a general overview section and includes information on the history of the local environmental movement; the CD will be distributed to all SAC members, local Jason Project teachers, and as many local teachers as possible; duplication costs are \$1.20 per CD and ideas for distribution are welcomed; the CD has active links built in, including links to all relevant resource agencies, but these would be problematic if web addresses are changed; the CD operates on McIntosh and PC platforms; CINMS staff had not thought of selling the CD through the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Chris Mobley presented Alex Brodie with a plaque thanking him for three years of dedicated service to the SAC. Alex stated that he wants to continue to play a role in the SAC, and recognized his co-worker Monica Baker who has applied for the SAC Business Alternate seat. John Clark also recognized Jorge Gross and Patty Wolf as the CDFG SAC Alternate and Member who have left the SAC. Jorge stated that he will still be involved in the Sanctuary but will be working full time in on-water enforcement.

An announcement was made that the first meeting of the Ocean Science Trust will take place on January 29th. Funds from this trust are to be spent on ocean science research.

Marine Reserves Update

State Marine Reserves Implementation

John Ugoretz reported that the Fish and Game Commission office has still not sent the CINMS MPA package to the state's Office of Administrative Law, but that he expected that would occur soon. John also explained that the Office of Administrative Law is requiring two copies of every public comment received, which is proving to be quite time consuming. A more likely estimate of when the marine reserves could take effect legally, John said, is February 2003.

John Ugoretz reported that efforts have been moving forward on the development of a multi-agency memorandum of understanding (MOU) to support enforcement of marine reserves at the Channel Islands.

Regarding biological monitoring program development, John reported that task force members had held two or three meetings thus far and that plans call for program details to come together at a Channel Islands marine reserves monitoring working to be held March 14-16 in Santa Barbara (details to come).

John distributed a preliminary set of biological monitoring questions that are being used to design a simple survey questionnaire to help set priorities for the monitoring workshop. The actual survey will be distributed next week via e-mail to SAC members and others.

In response to some questions, John explained that a goal of the workshop will be to come out of it with a monitoring plan.

Gary Davis and Fred Piltz noted that it will be important to indicate, up front, the level of precision expected from the monitoring programs.

Sean Hastings explained that the socio-economic monitoring program development will also be fleshed out at the upcoming workshop (March 14-16). Sean reported that a masters student team from the UCSB Bren School of Environmental Studies has submitted a project proposal to assist agencies on developing monitoring measures for non-consumptive activities in marine reserves.

Sean presented (on overhead transparencies) the results of a SAC exercise conducted in September 2002 whereby Council members provided input on the prioritization of a number of possible socio-economic monitoring topics. The results, Sean said, are helping to shape the way the monitoring workshop is being planned.

Sean also reported that Satie Airame has almost finished producing a document that explains and consolidates a variety of existing monitoring programs in place around the Channel Islands which could be helpful for monitoring and evaluating marine reserves.

Federal Process on Marine Reserves

Sean Hastings explained that the federal process for considering designation of additional marine reserves, as originally designed and envisioned, is not yet completely clear. Sean reported that much work has been taking place on this to consult with NOAA experts on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and various leaders with the National Marine Sanctuary Program and at higher levels of NOAA. Sean explained that the federal process on reserves will statutorily require the National Marine Sanctuary Program to work with the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Sean characterized some of the views and concerns about various process options being considered. He stated that there have been concerns expressed about the potential of the Sanctuary having three separate EIS processes in motion over the next few years (management plan, marine reserves, supplemental plan on boundary change). Sean explained that most of the interest, and some expectations, seems to be focused now on the possibility of merging the marine reserves process into the supplemental

environmental review process for boundary change alternatives, which is scheduled to reach the Draft EIS stage in mid-2004.

Linda Krop was the first of several SAC members to respond by expressing a number of concerns she had with the potential reserves/boundary combination process. Some of the points she raised were: 1) the concern over multiple EIS processes seems overstated, and concerns about project piecemealing should not apply here; 2) the management plan and supplemental boundary plan are really one connected process, not two, so by adding marine reserves we are only talking about two processes, not three; 3) for the last three years the constituents and public have become accustomed to the reserves and boundary processes being discussed and handled separately, so combining them now would be even more confusing; 4) there is no real relation between marine reserves and the Sanctuary's boundary; 5) this kind of change in process could cause the Sanctuary and the SAC to lose credibility; 6) reserves are ready for action now, so why wait until the boundaries are also ready to go, inviting more delays than necessary.

The SAC continued discussion on the coupling of the Federal marine reserves process and the boundary alternatives process.

Several SAC members had questions about the expected delay, and voiced concerns that the marine reserves process, which is well underway, should not be coupled with the boundary process that has been delayed due to a lack of information. Sean Hastings explained that if the marine reserves process is initiated this year it may take two years since the Sanctuary must coordinate with the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and since other agencies may want different alternatives considered. However, Sean added that if marine reserves are coupled with boundary alternatives then the process may not be complete until 2006 or 2007. Sean also confirmed that should the two sets of alternatives be coupled, any boundary-related delays would also delay marine reserves. However, Sean clarified that regardless of whether the two issues are coupled there is always the possibility of a "no action" outcome for both reserves and boundaries since "no action" must always be included among alternatives in EIS analyses.

SAC members raised several questions about scoping needs in terms of coupling combinations of the management plan, marine reserves and boundaries. Sean Hastings responded that despite the fact that the management plan notice of intent was sufficiently broad to encompass marine reserves additional scoping is likely, even if not legally required, due to the three years that have elapsed since the original scoping was conducted. Chris Mobley explained that coupling marine reserves with the management plan will in turn delay the management plan. Chris also explained that if the marine reserves process is carried out apart from other processes it may proceed at its own pace. He added that should the marine reserves process take longer than CINMS staff have currently estimated, it could later be folded into the boundary process. Alternatively, if the marine reserves process moves at a faster pace than previously estimated it could be folded into the management plan. Chris concluded that the process is subject to change so flexibility is key.

SAC members expressed an interest in drafting a letter substantiating the reasons that marine reserves should not be coupled with boundary alternatives. A motion was made by Bob Warner and seconded by Michael Hanrahan that Linda Krop draft a letter for the SAC to contain the following reasons that marine reserves and boundaries not be coupled: in honor of the commitment of CINMS to the SAC and community; in recognition that information for the marine reserves decision is already available and information for reserves in State waters is documented; to avoid delaying the marine reserves process; to avoid confusion [as to whether marine reserves would be considered beyond the current Sanctuary boundaries]; to maintain credibility; due to the priority status of marine reserves to the SAC; and due to the difficulty of establishing monitoring protocols for the entire network when only the State portion is in place.

A discussion ensued as to whether the SAC should vote on going forward with this letter due to the absence of representatives for the fishing member seat and alternate seats. SAC members added that

meeting dates had been set in consultation with fishermen and that marine reserves had been included as an item on the agenda, although no votes on actions had been planned in advance. SAC members addressed several options. A concern was raised that if each SAC fishing representative was called about the letter it may set a precedent that SAC members be able to vote despite their absence at meetings, which they make a commitment to attend. The SAC discussed whether leaving absent SAC representatives' names off the letter would be a change in procedure, and it was noted that a record of those present/absent along with a voting record could be sent as an attachment. Another option raised was to distribute the draft letter via email, then vote on sending it at the next meeting. In the end, it was agreed that the motion be clarified to request that the SAC letter include an attachment showing who voted for the motion and who was absent.

The resulting vote total on the motion was 14 yes and 2 abstain (Dept. of Fish and Game and National Marine Fisheries Service). Absent seats included the fishing seat, one public at-large seat, Ventura County, and the Coast Guard.

Video Presentation: "Return to Limuw"

Roberta Cordero provided background information prior to the video screening of the Chumash Tomol crossing the Santa Barbara Channel in "Return to Limuw." Paddlers departed from Channel Islands Harbor en route to Scorpion Anchorage, Santa Cruz Island on September 8, 2001. *Limuw* is the Chumash word for Santa Cruz Island. Approximately 125 people participated in this event, some as paddlers while others made the crossing on support vessels. About 98% of the Chumash people participating had never been to the islands before. The Chumash Maritime Association hopes to organize annual gatherings at the islands, though a Tomol crossing may not be possible on an annual basis.

The video will be available at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum soon (\$9.95 for VHS and \$12.95 for DVD).

Public Comment Period

Jesse Swanhuysen of Environmental Defense commented on the Federal marine reserves process, stating that the reserve issue has been an important issue to the SAC and the public for the last three years. He added that this issue has received press coverage from New York to LA. Although he said he appreciates the work of the staff, he expressed disappointment that after solid commitments made to the community over the last four years CINMS is not honoring those commitments. Mr. Swanhuysen also noted that the public is already unhappy about the delay with State marine reserve implementation.

Presentation: Biogeographic Study of the CINMS Region

Mike Murray introduced John Christensen and Chris Caldow of the National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS).

John provided an overview of this presentation explaining that it: introduces the general philosophy behind biogeographic studies, provides conceptual models as examples of the kind of work he and Chris Caldow will be conducting for the CINMS region, and covers how the SAC will be involved in the process.

Following the presentation SAC members asked several questions. John and Chris responded as follows: if possible they want to provide updates at all SAC meetings although neither will relocate to Santa Barbara full time; in order to better characterize ecosystems they will be looking at an area larger than the study area contained within the Michael McGinnis study; NCCOS will not be addressing how the data is used in the future, although they will standardize all data (at present there is not a standard format) and

make it available to the public. In response to a question about whether there are rules governing how data will be used once it is supplied to NCCOS and CINMS, Mike Murray stated that such rules are not yet in place but researchers should keep in mind that data will have applications beyond the boundary issue.

This power point presentation is available upon request.

Upon conclusion of the biogeographic study discussion Mike Murray introduced Michelle Wilson of Tetra Tech, Inc., who is working under a contract with CINMS to develop the EIS for the draft management plan, as well as an SEIS for boundary alternatives. Michelle provided information on her background. She has worked for Tetra Tech for seven years, including five years of work in the local Santa Barbara office. Michelle is the head of Tetra Tech's Santa Barbara Conservation Group.

Working Group and Ad-Hoc Group Reports

Conservation Working Group

Linda Krop announced that the Conservation Working Group will be meeting next on the evening of January 27 in Santa Barbara. SAC members and the public will receive an e-mail announcement.

Sanctuary Education Team

Craig Taylor reported that the SET met recently and began reviewing the CINMS Education and Outreach Action Plan. In addition to continuing work on long term education strategies for marine reserves, Craig explained that the SET would be focusing attention on the K-12 audience and developing strategic advice on how education and outreach actions planned by CINMS can reach this important group.

Ad Hoc Group on Enforcement

Sean Hastings, filling in for Robert Duncan, reported that the various enforcement agencies have been busy working on a memorandum of understanding to provide enforcement for the new marine reserves. As for the non-government members of the enforcement group, ideas that have been discussed recently, Sean reported, include working on the SET's marine reserve educational matrix of messages and audiences to help CINMS and partners develop an on-water volunteer-based educational enforcement presence. Other ideas Sean mentioned was for the members of the ad hoc enforcement group to actively participate in the marine reserves monitoring workshops (March 14-16), and begin to help with development of the Sanctuary's volunteer-based Marine Watch program.

Business Subcommittee or Working Group (proposal)

SAC business seat member Michael Hanrahan commented that because many SAC members are members of the maritime business community, he'd like to suggest that this group get together and discuss the possibility of forming either a SAC business subcommittee or possibly a working group. The Chair advised that interested members discuss this at the lunch break.

Michael Hanrahan also said that he would like to run a new idea by the business-minded members of the SAC: the possible formation of a group/program to be called the Sustainable Business Initiative. Michael explained the concept by reading the following draft program description: "The Sustainable Business Initiative (SBI) seeks to build a coalition of business owners and operators that believe in sustaining the marine resources of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary through concerted private sector actions. Rather than exclusively waiting for government regulations and programs to step in, the SBI will proactively look for ways that businesses can operate sustainably and profitably. The Sustainable Business Initiative (SBI) seeks to attract local businesses operating within or directly dependent upon the marine environment of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Participants will be asked to identify their potential impacts on the marine environment and challenged to establish and implement best business practices. Best business practices are intended to be new codes of business activity conduct integrated with sound environmental principles. SBI members will also work to build an awareness

campaign designed to encourage community stewardship of the Sanctuary while promoting business services to consumers. SBI's business marketing services will be provided as an added incentive for participation."

Water Quality

Chris Mobley gave a short presentation outlining the various water quality-related activities and plans CINMS is engaged in. He concluded his presentation by suggesting that the SAC could be helpful this year if they were willing to provide advice on: 1) recommendations to help assure and improve clean boating practices in the Sanctuary; 2) review and comment on CINMS emergency spill response plan. Linda Krop acknowledged the importance of these potential focused SAC water quality projects, but also requested that a broader Working Group be formed, perhaps by mid-year, to work on developing a set of CINMS recommendations for addressing water quality threats. Individuals at the meeting that expressed support for this idea and offered to participate included Craig Taylor, Merit McCrea, Jeanette Webber and Tracey Duffy (with the California Coastal Commission's Water Quality Unit). Chris Mobley expressed that he would like to see the SAC working groups be as autonomous and focused as possible, rather than relying on Sanctuary staff to perform the group's work.

Development of SAC Annual Plan

Mike Murray explained that CINMS staff have taken a similar approach in aiding SAC annual planning as that taken last year by drafting a list of items they would like SAC assistance on. Mike summarized the items contained in a hand out entitled, "Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Requests for Sanctuary Advisory Council Advice in 2003 (DRAFT)." This hand out is available upon request.

Gary Davis made a motion to adopt the entire plan as drafted by CINMS staff.

During a discussion surrounding changes to the plan the SAC concluded the following:
CINMS Task 3: "interpretation" was replaced with "education"; the SET and the Ad-hoc Enforcement Group will be asked to work on this task

CINMS Task 4: the SAC recalled that Dianne Meester is the Chair of the SAC Subcommittee on Performance Measures [as previously determined the following SAC members compose this subcommittee: Matt Cahn, Jackie Campbell, Jon Clark, Greg Helms, Dick Holt, Rebecca Roth and Bob Warner.]

CINMS Task 5: Craig Taylor, John Ugoretz and Fred Piltz volunteered to serve as liaisons with the NCCOS Team, with Bob Warner as the primary liaison

CINMS Task 10: the SAC requested that the emergency response discussion be conducted earlier; John Ugoretz suggested that Ken Wilson of CDFG's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) could provide a presentation to the SAC on local emergency response planning

CINMS Task 11: based on a straw poll the SAC decided to add this eleventh task to the existing plan. This task is as follows: Develop short and long-term water quality recommendations for the Sanctuary by having the SAC establish working groups by mid-year. SAC members who volunteered to work on this included Craig Taylor, Jeanette Webber, and Greg Helms. The SAC noted that Rebecca Roth (absent) had previously expressed an interest in this idea. Tracy Duffy of the California Coastal Commission's Water Quality Unit volunteered from the audience to work on this item as well. In response to SAC question about the availability of support from Sanctuary staff in 2003 Chris Mobley stated that a

graduate student intern, or some staff support may be available. However, Chris noted that working groups should be self-sufficient and therefore not limited by the level of Sanctuary support available.

By unanimous voice vote, the SAC adopted the annual plan, subject to requested modifications.

Improving SAC Operations

Jon Clark explained that he and Eric Kett reviewed the ideas for improvement raised at the SAC retreat and used that as a starting point to make some observations and suggestions.

Jon began by explaining four activities he feels the SAC engages in:

The SAC elicits input from public or particular groups. This generally comes in the form of feedback on particular Sanctuary program and policies through both formal and informal means, or when SAC members bring new issue to the attention of the Sanctuary Manager.

The SAC provides input, as individuals representing constituencies, into policy or programs. This can be done through formal input processes or informally.

The SAC, as a whole, makes recommendations on policy or programs.

The SAC helps implement certain programs, particularly when they require outreach to one or more constituent groups.

Jon explained that he felt the SAC was proficient at activities 1, 2 and 4, but has struggled with activity 3.

The first general recommendation the Jon presented concerned the importance of the SAC setting goals. Jon stated that clear goals should be set at the beginning of the year and then use them as guideposts throughout the year. He added that the goals should specify exactly what the SAC's role is, indicating if the SAC is part of implementing an outreach program, gathering input, making a policy recommendation, etc. He also added that at year-end the SAC should evaluate its performance compared to the goals set.

Concerning meeting management, Jon emphasized that meeting time should be treated as precious, that meetings should not have to last all day, and that agendas be limited to issues pertinent to achieving SAC goals.

Jon also expressed that more opportunities should be created to orient and educate SAC members. This should consist of, he said, a once a year full or half day workshop that reviews the CINMS operation as a whole and the role of the SAC, held ideally at the Sanctuary. Additionally, Jon mentioned that short retreats (one day or overnight) should be offered that would provide more in depth looks into pertinent Sanctuary issues. Finally, Jon commented that the staff and SAC members should keep an eye out for "ride-along" opportunities for SAC members to get to know the Sanctuary better or in a new and different ways.

Concerning decision-making, Jon recommended that the SAC should avoid "politicizing" itself by taking group action on items where common agreement does not exist and votes are likely to be close. He added that if necessary the SAC should vote on whether it chooses to engage in any particular issue in a formal decision-making manner. Some SAC members said that it is valuable for the SAC to take on hard, decisive issues, and that they would not want to see difficult issues avoided.

Finally, concerning participation, Jon said that he and Eric recommend that SAC members be asked to make a commitment to the Sanctuary that includes regular meeting attendance, regular outreach to constituent groups where appropriate, and knowledge of the issues at hand. Jon also suggested that the SAC might want to consider asking each member to sign a "covenant" that outlines the member's role and responsibilities to the Sanctuary.

After some Council discussion on these ideas, Jon and Eric Kett suggested that they return to the next SAC meeting with a set of specific recommendations that could be acted on by the SAC.

Future SAC Meeting Schedule and Agenda Topics

The SAC decided to meet on the following dates:

Thursday, March 20, 2003 (changed from March 21)

Friday, May 16, 2003

Friday, July 18, 2003

Friday, September 19, 2003

Friday November, 14, 2003

The SAC decided that rather than having NCCOS staff attend each SAC meeting, the SAC Biogeography Study Subcommittee should meet with NCCOS staff for updates.

Regarding clean boating practices, the SAC concluded that they will need materials to review and some appropriate speakers in order to get started.

The SAC determined that, if possible, they would like to hear from Ken Wilson with the Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response.

It was also noted by Craig Taylor that SET recommendations would be forthcoming in March.

Final Announcements

Nancy Berenson, CINMS Outreach Project Coordinator, announced that the National SAC Chairs and Coordinator's meeting is coming up on February 20th. All SAC members are invited to attend a special reception event in Santa Barbara on February 19th at 6 pm.

The Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 pm